steps to reduce the wastage of power involved in them. The working of the Steam Boilers and Prime Movers Regulation has been entrusted to him and forms no inconsiderable portion of his duties.

38. The details of the procedure connected with the grant of loans for the encouragement of cottage industries were settled towards the close of 1099 and eight industrial loans involving a sum of nearly Rs. 8,000 have already been disbursed during the current year. It is hoped that the balance of Rs. 12,000 budgeted under this head will also be spent before the close of the year. With a view to encourage the manufacture of desiccated cocoanut, the Government have recently sanctioned a loan of Rs. 25,000 to Mr. K. K. Joseph of Alleppey. The recommendations of the Economic Development Board in regard to the measures to be taken for the extension and improvement of button manufacture are under examination.

39. Much has been done in recent years for increasing the facilities for technical and industrial education in the State. The S. M. R. V. Technical Institute, Nagercoil, devoted to weaving, was re-organised in Kumbham, 1096, and had the full complement of students in all the three classes in 1099. Sanction has been accorded to the raising of the strength of the school in the current year. The Government School of Commerce, started at Alleppey in Chingam, 1097, has proved to be popular. The Malayalam class in elementary commerce had to be discontinued for want of sufficient response ; but instruction in Malayalam short-hand has been newly introduced. The Sri Mulam Technical Institute, opened in Trivandrum in 1095, has not been equally successful. Its object originally was to impart instruction in elementary mechanics to a class of fitters and in more advanced mechanics to a class of overseers. The fitters' class had to be abolished in 1099 owing to paucity of students. Classes for overseers in civil engineering and *maistries* have been opened instead to train candidates for the posts of sub-overseers, surveyors and *aminadars*. It is hoped that this alteration in the courses will make the institution more popular. The old Carpentry School at Quilon, which had become moribund, was remodelled and re-opened in 1098 for imparting instruction in carpentry and smithery. The carpentry section has alone been opened and it is not yet sufficiently strong. The workshop of the school has been fitted with wood-working machinery, purchased at a cost of more than Rs. 10,000 ; and this affords considerable facilities for the practical training of students in the manufacture of furniture. The stipends to the students in this school have recently been enhanced from Rs. 5, Rs. 6, and Rs. 7, to Rs. 8, Rs. 10, and Rs. 12, respectively, with a view to attract students from all parts of the State. I regret once more to note the tardy response which the facilities created for technical and industrial education are receiving in the country.

40. The grant-in-aid industrial schools for boys were, as you may remember, transferred from the control of the Director of Public Instruction to that of the Director of Industries with effect from the beginning of 1097. There were 39 aided and 16 unaided schools at the time. In pursuance of the orders of the Government approving the proposals of the committee appointed to suggest a better regulation of grants-in-aid to industrial schools, the grants to some schools had to be discontinued, with the result that, at the end of 1099, there were 36 aided and 62 unaided schools. Of the 36 aided schools, 28 were imparting instruction in cotton-weaving, 2 in coir industry, 2 in carpentry and smithery, one in rattan and bamboo industry, one in basket-making, one in mat-making, and one in drawing. The draft Technical Education Code, already published in the *Gazette*, is now undergoing suitable revision at the hands of the Director. There were also 12 aided technical schools for girls under the Director of Public Instruction in 1099. Weaving was taught in four of these schools, weaving and embroidery in one, and lace-making, embroidery, plain sewing and drawing in the others.

41. The British Empire Exhibition. The participation of Travancore in the British Empire Exhibition held at Wembley in 1924 has been availed of by the Department of Industries for exhibiting several of the raw materials and manufactured products of the country. Dr. Kunjan Pillai, Director of Agriculture and

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Fisheries, who was deputed to London to be in charge of the Travancore Court at the Exhibition, has returned and submitted a report of his work in connection wit the Exhibition, which is being separately published. The main object of the participation of Travancore in this Exhibition was to secure adequate advertisement for her goods and to find fresh markets for them by the establishment of business relations with foreign countries. Dr. Kunjan Pillai is in a position to assure both the Government and the public that this object has been achieved, and that thousands of visitors, who came not only from Great Britain and Ireland but also from the various other countries in Europe and America, and from the Overseas Dominions, have carried away with them a favourable impression of our country's products, both raw and finished, and of its resources. Several enquiries have been received by Dr. Kunjan Pillai from business firms in Great Britain, Canada, Australia, France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Holland and the United States of America, concerning the chief products of Travancore, such as copra, coir mats and mattings, tea, rubber, timber, oil-seeds and tubers,and the enquiries are being still pursued in some cases. Dr. Kunjan Pillai is able to put the merchants of this country in touch with these firms. From the investigations made by him, he is satisfied that there is ample scope for the extension of our trade in the articles specified above, as well as in spices, ivory, works of art, lace and embroidery, and bell-metal ware. He also considers that there is great scope for business in preserved fruits and starch foods, if we can produce them. There are considerable facilities for starting these new industries, and Dr. Kunjan Pillai has secured plans and estimates for the necessary equipments. He is of the opinion that organisation is the first essential of success. The openings are vast and the scope for expansion is unlimited; and the measure of the benefits that can be derived from our participation in this great Exhibition will be proportionate to the readiness with which our people take advantage of these opportunities.

42. Public Works. You are aware that, of late, a larger proportion of the annual allotment for the Public Works Department is being spent on communications, the percentage of expenditure on such works rising from 42·5 in 1096 to 48·3 in 1099. Effort is also being made to effect a better territorial distribution of the allotment. 50·4 per cent. of the outlay on communications was spent in 1099 in the Alwaye and Kottayam P. W. Divisions put together and 30 per cent. in the Quilon P. W. Division; in other words, 80·4 per cent. of the entire allotment was spent for the benefit of divisions where communications are still insufficient. It may also be stated that work was in progress in 1099 on fifteen new roads and two canals in North Travancore and on seven new roads in Central Travancore. With the completion of the bridge across the Varattar, all the river crossings on the line of the Main Central Road up to the Periyar river have been bridged and considerable convenience extended to traffic. The construction of the through road from Quilon to Alleppey is being vigorously pushed on, and the major portion of that road has already been opened to traffic, with ferry services at the Nindakara bar and at the site of the old Kannetti bridge. The construction of the canal from Alleppey to Shertallai is making fair progress. The improvement of two cross canals, Madayantodu and Puttantodu, to connect this canal with the Vembanad backwater, is also proceeding. For the use of Sâmbavars in South Travancore, five roads were opened in 1098 and three more roads in 1099. The sinking of three wells for their use is also in progress. A length of 111½ miles of village roads, opened by the public as ryots' roads, has been taken over for departmental maintenance during the past four years, and a sum of over Rs. 40,000 has been spent by the Public Works Department on the construction of bridges and culverts on them.

43. Final orders will soon be issued on the report of the committee appointed to examine the P. W. Workshops and suggest economies in its working.

44. The report submitted by the committee appointed to enquire into the *Redeemer* boat disaster, referred to in paragraph 43 of my last year's address, has been published with the orders of the Government thereon. Most of the suggestions

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